

REVOLUTION

ISSUE 60

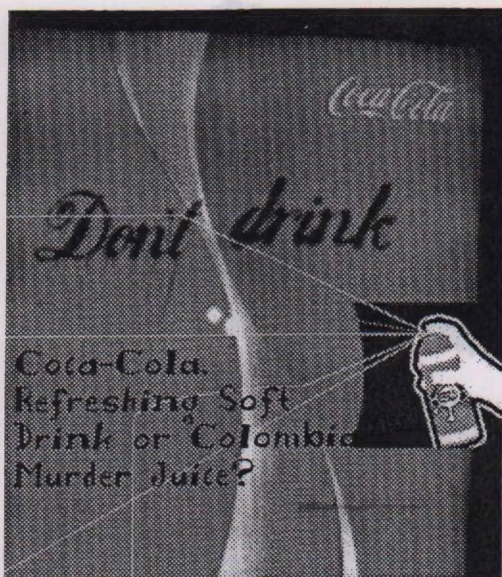
socialist youth movement
30p / 50c

**at the
European
Social
Forum
Paris Nov 12-16**



BUILD A YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

one solution - revolution



Everyone has cracked open an ice-cold can of coke before, but how many times have you thought about what goes into it? I'm not talking about turning the can on its side and reading the ingredients list, I'm talking about what Coke REALLY contains. It's much more than the dozen or so spoons of sugar or the sack full of caffeine.

Each time you hand over 50p for a can, you're giving 40p-odd (that's the price without the shopkeepers profit) to a multinational company that not only fuels America's capitalist machine, but also oppresses working class people like you and me. Every time you hand over your money,

you're supporting a firm that quashes trade unions, in an attempt to stop workers fighting for their rights.

Time and time again, Coke causes great injustices in Colombia and this is sheer evidence of how capitalism pays no regard to human rights (along with worker's rights). Managers of Coca-Cola bottling plants in Colombia have allowed, and encouraged, the right-wing paramilitaries and government forces to threaten, detain, kidnap and murder union workers. Instead of taking effective action to protect the workers in Colombia, Coca-Cola is attempting to portray worker's concerns as "baseless allegations."

One of these 'baseless allegations' was the murder of Isidro Segundo Gil. In October 1996, Ariosto Mosquera, the manager of the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Carepa, publicly boasted that he would use the paramilitaries to "sweep away the union." The union sent a letter to Coca-Cola expressing concerns about these threats, but the company never responded. On December 5, 1996, Isidro was murdered inside the bottling plant by paramilitaries. Four days later, a group of paramilitaries entered the plant, rounded up the workers and gave them a 4 pm deadline to resign from the union. Fifty workers signed identical resignation letters that had been prepared by Mosquera, and the union was forced to leave the plant.

Stories like this are common in Colombia, where Coca-Cola managers maintain close relationship with paramilitaries and help pay for their wages and equipment in exchange for Mafia style protection against unarmed workers and their families. Still think that 50p is worth spending?

These atrocities prompted Sinatrainal, the Colombian food and beverage trade union, to launch a worldwide Coca-Cola boycott. The campaign started on July 22nd and aims at raising solidarity with Colombian Coca-Cola workers victims of systematic violence and denial of workers rights.

Since its launch, trade unions, workers and individuals across the world have supported the Coca-Cola boycott in the hope of helping Colombian communities.

Campaigns like this are crucially important in raising awareness, but we must not forget that the only way of ending violence and exploitation in the name of profit is to fight capitalism and overthrow it. Youth, workers, women, unemployed and immigrants across the globe have to unite and fight for a socialist and classless society. Only in this way can we help our Colombian fellow workers to free themselves from capitalist violence and exploitation.

by shyam in leicester

THE WORKERS STRIKE BACK

Militant "unofficial" action by up to 30,000 postal workers across London and other

towns and cities has won a major victory for workers everywhere. The biggest "wildcat" strike in years forced a major climb down from the bosses at the Post Office.

By defying the Thatcherite anti-union laws, the posties have shown how the rank and file can win, by organising their own action and spreading it to go all out to win.

The dispute followed the narrow vote against national strike action over pay which the Royal Mail bosses took as a green light to attack workers conditions, moreover most posties saw the strike as deeply political. Some in New Labour want to privatise the postal service and this was an attempt to provoke a battle with the postal workers. But New Labour were forced to duck out of the battle when confronted with the militancy and organisation of the postal workers.

During the dispute Revolution members visited several picket lines to support the strikers. Their success has already inspired the firefighters to take similar wildcat action and will hopefully encourage other militant sections of workers.

call to the esf - back the general strike!

The postal workers action and that of the firefighters have not been isolated incidents. Across Europe workers have been taking industrial action with Italy being paralysed by repeated strikes, Austria seeing its first general strike for over 50 years, picket lines springing up all over Germany and French workers unifying to protect pensions provision and protest against threats of privatisations.

In Italy the CGIL (TUC) has called for another general strike on the back of the success of the recent walkouts on October 24th and has stepped up its battle to defy Berlusconi's planned pension reforms, racist immigration laws, cuts in public spending and draconian labour reforms.

However, not all elements of the movement have welcomed this growing militancy. Some reformists have worked hard to sow discontent, divide and demonise

the mass actions taken by workers across Europe. Bureaucratic union leaders have misrepresented their members, repeatedly selling them out and refuting calls for general strikes which has allowed the state to constantly regroup and reorganise to ultimately enforce its will upon the workers.

In the lead up to the European Social Forum in Paris self-proclaimed organisers such as Attac, have been calling for a lessening of direct action and stating that the, "the framework of our struggle remains national." This kind of rhetoric leads to the isolation and minimisation of industrial action, which aids the Capitalist bosses in overcoming the effects of strikes.

The key to the success of these workers' struggles lies, then, within the movements' ability to unify and expand these strikes into mass industrial action against the whole of Europe's capitalist

class.

At the ESF in Paris Revolution will be supporting the Italian unions' call for a Europe wide day of action - up to and including strike action - against the reforms and cuts to social welfare. We want a mass February 15th - but taking it a step further and really hitting the bosses where it counts - in their money belts. This will be the only thing that can stop the bosses' attacks.

To move forward it is essential that rank and file workers organise to take action as the British postal workers did, breaking the constraints of their leaders that time and again have failed to secure victories. Only through the internationalisation of our struggle, will capitalists feel the true force of workers' power to bring the system down and wrest control from the bourgeois bosses.

my day in court

I was arrested in July for demonstrating against Ariel Sharon's visit to the UK. Typically, they accused me of 'Violent Disorder' (maximum of 6 years inside).

I had to defend myself against the police claims that I had thrown 'missiles' at them (we thought maybe Hans Blix had got lost in his search for WMD's and finger-pointed the anti-war movement).

In court they asked why I did not disassociate myself from the 'violent' crowd of protestors: Why should I? We weren't being violent - the police were.

We were demonstrating our repulsion at the thought of Blair and Sharon eating and drinking at our expense! I stand proudly with those demonstrators.

"But you admit you were angry?"

"Yes I was angry! Angry with the Police attacking us; with the fact that Sharon was invited to this country after the massacres he is responsible for.

"I was angry then and I am angry now because I am in court defending myself, instead of Sharon being in the dock since he's a War Criminal. But that doesn't mean I'm going to start throwing things at you!" (I said this to the prosecution, not the judge!)

Case dismissed.

I fought the law, and for once, the law lost!

Many others face this kind of persecution by the state - we are always accused of violence when it is the State which is violent. The police go wading into demo's with batons and fists, and the army goes wading into foreign lands with bombs and tanks.

The hypocrisy is glaring: 150 demonstrators arrested - many of whom accused of violence - for protesting against the biggest trade fair of the most violent and destructive weaponry available.

There are many more who need our support: Karl Debbaut was arrested along with two others for organising school students from South London to come to Parliament Square to protest against the invasion of Iraq on the day it began. Police attacked the students who got there, but youth from Lewisham schools were not even allowed the privilege of demonstrating.

Karl tried to stand up for their right to demonstrate and he was violently arrested. Now he is being accused of assaulting a copper (possible 6 months in prison).

There are many more cases to come - when mass murderer Bush comes to the UK, we can expect even more arrests and attacks by police. We need to be prepared.

Be angry with the Warmongers and stand up for yourself! Know your rights, and fight for them all the way.

BY MAX IN CLAPHAM

If you want to help be a legal observer on the resist Bush demonstrations, contact the Legal Defence Monitoring Group:
Tel: 020 8245 2930 (24hr answerphone)
Email: ldm@gmail@yahoo.co.uk
www2.phreak.co.uk/ldmg/

CLASS WAR PRISONERS

Dear REVO comrades

So now concludes three days of my trial. I am not satisfied in any case. I will describe the trial: so at the beginning the lawyer objected to me giving a political speech because - according to him - it isn't suitable. The judge attempted to deny my right to explain what happened.

But I talked about the racist campaign against Roma people in the Slovak newspapers. I gave the example that if it was the Nazi Slamka that had killed, he would never be on trial for murder because his high position friends would arrange for his release. I compared it with the racism in the southern states of the US and quoted Karl Marx (18th Brumaire of L Bonaparte): all historical events that are repeated - the first time is a tragedy, the second time it is a farce.

And I spoke about the Slovakian Parliament holding one-minute silence for Slamka, who was openly involved with a group of fascist skinheads that had been drinking and celebrating Ian Stuart Donaldson, leader of punk band 'Skrewdriver' that had open links with the NF and Combat 18.

Then the judge stopped the proceedings noting that I was drawing politics into the courtroom. He threatened to expel me for being a dissident.

When the father of nazi Slamka spoke, I wanted to question him about his racist son, but the lawyer said no. This was the same in the case of Slamka's family friend. I don't comprehend it!

And now on the basis of this trial, we recognise the disadvantage of not speaking out. The judge refused a proposal to hear testimonies from two teachers of Slamka with reason that the family and friend's testimony was



enough. Of course these were testimonies about good, sweet angel, Slamka.

On top of this the judge refused our appeal on my release from arrest. The final judgement has been postponed to the 20th November. This does not feel good for me. We must prepare for future struggles. And of course it is necessary to keep hope in the future.

Several days ago I got a letter from comrade Katka - it raised my enthusiasm. So comrades I am with you in the struggle to overthrow capitalism. Our fight will be crowned by victory. I clench my fist in solidarity.
With revolution greetings
Mario

Racist attacks and murders are the hallmark of the discrimination and oppression of Roma in Eastern Europe. The state authorities ignore or minimise these attacks. Mario Bango, a 20-year old Roma and anti-racist activist, was determined to stay and fight racism and fascism in his own country - Slovakia. He and his family were repeatedly the subject of racist abuse and physical attacks.

So in March 2001 when a Nazi attacked his brother on a bus, Mario defended him with his knife, which many young Roma carry because of the likelihood of life threatening attacks and because they know they will get no protection from the police.

Mario has been in prison for 3 years and the trial is still going on. He is threatened with a sentence of up to 15 years. But Mario Bango is no criminal! His "crime" was to defend his brother from a brutal racist attack.

We call on all human rights, progressive, anti-racist organisations and individuals to support our call to the Slovakian authorities to drop the case against Mario Bango and to release him from prison.

Please write to him:
Mario Bango, nar. 8. 6. 1982
Ústav na vy'kon väzby
príecinok 1077
Chorvatská 5
812 29 Bratislava
Slovensko/Slovakia

Seven protestors arrested at the June EU Summit in Thessaloniki are still being held without trial. They expect to be brought to court in June. That is 1 year of their lives taken from them without their 'guilt' being established.

In the case of Simon Chapman, it has been proven - even shown on Greek television - that the police planted evidence on Simon. Video footage, taken from the Greek national news, shows Simon being beaten by police, while undercover police place the 3 BLACK bags of molotov cocktails at his feet. An undercover policeman is seen placing a hammer into one of the bags. The fact that this was shown across Greece, and yet the magistrates refuse to hear his case or consider dropping it, proves the lengths the state will go to in order to take activists off the streets.

Now 5 of the Saloniki 7, including Simon Chapman, have now been on hunger strike for a month. They are protesting against false imprisonment but also against the deportation of Suleiman Dakduk, a Syrian protestor who has been living in exile in Greece for the past 13 years. He faces the death penalty if he is made to return to Syria.



FREE THE SALONIKI 7!

You can write to Simon @
Kratoumeno SIMON CHAPMAN
Dikastikes Fylakes Diavaton
T.K. 540 12
Thessaloniki
GREECE

POLICE: INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

A north east woman is beginning legal proceedings against Northumbria police on the grounds of racism after they continuously failed to protect her and her family against local racists - and even perpetrated some of the abuse themselves.

Barbara Yusef-Porter installed CCTV in and around her home five years ago to collect evidence against neighbours who are regularly hurling racial abuse and physically attacking her and her children. But the cameras have not only recorded white gangs making nazi salutes and destroying her garden, but also show members of the local constabulary screaming obscenities up at her window.

After confronting the police with the video-tapes, she was told that there was not enough evidence for a prosecution, even though she has names and addresses for those responsible.

Barbara claims that she has been targeted by groups such as the National Front and the BNP, as well as the police, because of the work she has done over the last 20 years, defending ethnic minorities who have been victims of discrimination.

On August the 6th of this year, her home was raided on a fabricated charge and police seized files and property which have still not been returned - despite her being able to produce receipts for all items (they were trying to charge her with theft). Whilst she

was being detained, her request for halal food and something to drink were denied, and there was an attempt made to have her sectioned under the Mental Health Act. Whilst all this was taking place, the police left Barbara's daughter who was having a severe epileptic seizure on the floor of the house; they refused to let Barbara or her son, who they detained in one of the rooms of the house, assist her. As a result, Barbara's daughter was hospitalised for a week.

The warrant which was used for the raid has since been pronounced illegal - by the forces own admission - as it does not name the person who applied for it. Under Section 15 of the Criminal Evidence Act 1984 this means that "if the provisions of these sections are not complied with, any entry and search made under a warrant will be unlawful."

Local fascists have also physically attacked Barbara's son and again the police told the family there was not enough evidence for a prosecution. On another occasion, PC Andy Wilkinson visited Barbara's home and asked her son if Barbara was their natural mother and if so, "Why are you white?" Police have also accused her of prostitution because she has white children.

Communities must now rally behind Barbara as she begins her legal battle with the Northumbria police force. Stories such as hers show that the entire police force is rife with racism, and that it is not just "a few

individuals who reflect badly on the majority of fair minded coppers who abhor racism" as has been implied by the BBC documentary 'The Secret Policeman'.

The authorities must recognise the extent of the problem all over Britain and force out those that persecute ethnic minorities and propagate racism. Local communities must expose those that perpetuate and downplay the harassment that ethnic minorities face everyday, like David Blunkett - who denounced the documentary as "a cheap stunt".

We must fight in solidarity with those who become targets for right-wing thugs in the police force and on the streets. In what is becoming an ever-increasing problem, our slogan to smash racism by whatever means necessary, must surely mean exactly that.

by missy
in
sunderland

remember stephen lawrence



CAPITALIST STATE

These situations arise from the fact that Capitalist states are based on and breed racism. Why does it benefit capitalism to develop and encourage racism?

Racism has its origins in class society and it's used in order to divide and rule the working class. Society is not racist because of people's ideas. It's the other way round! Racist ideology is created and perpetuated by the social system in order to serve the exploitative social structure of capitalism.

The fortunes of the most advanced capitalist states are based on the exploitation of natural resources abroad, and on the illegal and underpaid work of immigrants escaping hunger and poverty, which are caused by capitalism itself.

In the US, for example, capitalists earn huge amounts of profits thanks to the millions of Latin American workers prepared to work illegally and earn a salary which is far below the minimum wage in order to feed their families back home.

In addition to being forced to work long hours in often unsafe conditions, they face daily discrimination and racist attacks in the streets at the hand of the police and racist sections of society.

If they are so important for the capitalist money making machine, why are they criminalised and discriminated against?

The answer lies in the fact that capitalism uses racism in order to divide the working class and to prevent it from forming international

links. Racist ideology and the idea of a superior white race have been created in order to justify slavery, prejudices, exploitation and injustice.

It is also used to put one worker against the other using refugees and ethnic minorities as scapegoats and blaming them for unemployment amongst white workers. This leaves the capitalist free to carry on with redundancies and factory closures in order to reduce labour costs and increase their already staggering profits. They are the ones to blame for unemployment, not the immigrants!

As a result of centuries of racist laws, racism has crept into our society and is now deeply rooted in some of the most powerful institutions of the state. Over the last few years, in the UK alone, the police, the Home Office and the Crown Prosecutions have all been successfully shown to be guilty of institutional racism.

If this wasn't enough, racism affects every aspect of the daily lives of ethnic minorities and immigrants: the education system routinely gives black and Asians children less opportunities, health services fail the needs of entire communities, the police harass ethnic minorities and the judges hand out disproportionate racist sentences.

Take for example the case of Mario Bango, a Roma Revolution member from Slovakia. His only 'crime' was to defend himself from a racist attack, one of the many he and other members of the Roma community suffered (and continues to suffer) at the hands of Nazis. Whilst his attackers are now free to perpetuate their vio-

RACIST IMMIGRATION CONTROLS = FORTRESS EUROPE



After the Second World War, British imperialism encouraged hundreds of thousands from its former colonies in India and Africa to come to the "mother country" and do the jobs that no one else wanted. This was followed by a raft of laws to restrict their rights to work and residence, and to bring their families to join them, and accompanied by a massive campaign to scapegoat and stigmatise Black and Asian people as being responsible for unemployment, drugs and urban crime. As the murder of Stephen Lawrence and the endemic institutional racism of the police demonstrates, British society still has a long time to heal the social wounds inflicted by state racism against Black and Asian people.

Things, however, have moved on. Today, the "race debate" is no longer about immigrants from Britain's former colonies, but about "asylum seekers" and "economic migrants" – often from war zones like Iraq or Afghanistan where the West has had a direct hand in the conflict, but most frequently from former Soviet Bloc countries in Eastern Europe. Yet, bizarrely

enough, the language used to justify state racism against these new targets remains the same. The country is "too full" – there are not enough jobs or houses or public services to go round. "These people" don't understand "our culture" or our "democratic way of life", and they are either terrorists or criminals or both. Most scandalously, people who have fled torture and assassination squads at home are accused of being "scroungers" who came here to live on state benefits. But you never hear of Australian barmen or South African office workers being described as "economic migrants" – because they are white English-speakers and so "one of us".

What is behind the change of targets of state racism? The answer is "Fortress Europe". British capitalism, having lost its colonies, has clubbed together with the other European capitalist powers like France, Germany and Italy to maintain its dwindling global position. As part of the deal, workers in all of the European Union (EU) countries will have the right to live and work anywhere in the EU – if they can overcome the hurdles of moving and finding a job. The flip side to the deal is a common European immigration policy directed at those outside of this select club – a policy of criminalising refugees and migrant workers. It is given scant justification by reference to the twin threats of "global terrorism" and "human trafficking" – as if the first was not a product of Western policy, and the second of the very immigration laws that rely on it for justification.

The fact is that immigration laws neither pre-

vent people from coming into the country nor preserve jobs or public services for the benefit of "native" workers. Disparities in wealth and income will always bring economic migration. If the only way to prevent the Iraqi or Afghan refugee from fleeing their country is to ensure that they have a peaceful country to go back to, then the only way to prevent the unemployed worker from China or Romania from smuggling themselves into Britain in the back of a lorry is for them to have decent jobs back home. To imagine that the desperate and dispossessed will be put off by threats of deportation is sheer make-believe.

What immigration laws succeed in doing is not keeping people out but in creating an underclass of easily-exploited labour with no civil rights, no access to public services and no ability to resist the demands of unscrupulous bosses and other parasites. The solution to this is for the workers movement to embrace immigrant workers into its own ranks – whether here legally or not. It must struggle against the laws and prejudices that discriminate and divide the working class against itself, and launch a joint struggle for the defence and extension of education, healthcare, social housing and other public services. This is the only way to make sure that New Labour – and governments like it on the Continent – do not evade responsibility for their vandalism of public services by diverting it into a "race war" between poverty-stricken communities divided by state-inspired prejudice.

by marcus in oval

RACIST STATE

lence against innocent people, Mario Bango has already been in prison for 3 years and he is facing a 15 years sentence.

All this happens when police turn a blind eye towards racist attacks: if not organising them themselves!

Examples like this are common in every single capitalist county where thousands of blacks, Asians or immigrants are constantly harassed by the police, arrested, beaten up and often have evidence fabricated against them. An equally racist media allows the racist capitalist states to distort the facts and turn them into propaganda, so that they can keep blaming blacks, Asians and immigrants for unemployment and street crime.

The real criminals are the racist imperialist states who use their 'white race superiority' theories to justify the plunder of Third World countries, exploit the labour of people emigrating in search of work and then scapegoat the same for the problems that capitalism itself creates in society.

We need to root racism out of the workplace, the community and the institutions, organise self-defence against attacks wherever they come from, racists or even the police themselves. Asian and black communities should be supported and assisted when defending themselves against attacks, as the racist police force cannot be relied upon. Subsequent victimisation in the courts should be fought against and defence campaigns built up and supported.

by Fran chita in peckham

We also need to tear down national borders, created to divide us, and let people travel freely. If money can move from one part of the world to another, people should be allowed to do the same.

Racism is intrinsically linked to capitalist society and for this reason we have to mobilise against capitalism and not just the idea of racism.



5 ★ REVOLUTION

Youth of the Form a youth

by Luke in Reigate

From the streets of Seattle, to Genoa and Evian, from the huge anti-war movement that shook the globe to the revolutionary upsurge we have seen in Argentina and Bolivia...

Everywhere we, the youth, have been at the fighting end of the anti-capitalist movement. Our actions have shown the way forward. Despite this, we do not have our own mass organisation. We desperately need one. We need to form an anti capitalist youth international.

Some people argue that young people do not need their own organisation, that they just need to join in with the "adult" movement. REVOLUTION rejects this. We recognise that despite consistently being on the frontlines of the anti-capitalist movement, young people are sidelined when it comes to making the decisions.

The fact is that under capitalism young

people suffer systematic oppression. At home we are pushed about and told what to do. At school we are given a thorough training in obedience, and brain washed into accepting capitalism as a just and "natural" system. At work we are discriminated against and patronised. We are sent off to fight and die in capitalist wars and when we return those of us under 18 are told we are not old enough to vote. When we go out on the streets we are harassed by the Police and subject to "stop and search" laws, in reality legalised intimidation of the young people and other oppressed groups. So yeah, the youth of the world have a lot to get angry and radical about...

The anti-capitalist movement does not exist in a bubble within which there is no oppression. Young people make up the majority of the anti-capitalist movement, yet are barely represented in any of the leadership positions. The platforms at this month's ESF will be filled, not with the faces of a vibrant and militant youth movement that has risked its lives on the streets opposing the neo liberal agenda, opposing the capitalist, imperialist world order, but with the same liberal academics and the reformists that have led the

workers to 25 years of defeats and setbacks.

The anti-capitalist movement is also predominantly white. This must change. The anti-capitalist movement needs to link up with the struggles of ethnic minorities and immigrant communities and try and spread anti-capitalist, class struggle politics. Young people are crucial in realising this, because of their unique social position. Through the education system immigrant youth become integrated faster into communities, but do of course still suffer racism and discrimination. We need to join with them in combating that racism, and in doing so win immigrant working class communities to the fight. The anti-war movement in Britain and the struggle against the fascist BNP shows that working class immigrant youth can become the militant vanguard.

All of this shows that young people have a crucial role to play in our movement. We need to go on leading the movement in taking action but we also need to get our voice heard. We need to start giving the anti capitalist movement a political direction. That's why we need to form a mass anti-capitalist youth international open to all anti-capitalist youth. And we don't just want another youth group that is dictated to by the "adult" party or organisation. We want it to have organisational and political independence, deciding its own policy, politics and priorities.

Yet we do not think that we can overthrow capitalism on our own. For this our class is essential. Through forming an anti-capitalist youth international we can show the workers movement as a whole that it is possible to break down the barriers they use to divide us, and to unite in struggle across borders and nations. Through our democracy and organisation we can show that there is an alternative to the chaos and anarchy of the capitalist system. We need to take democratic organisation to our movement as well. The consensus decision-making structures that exist in the ESF at the moment in reality mean back door decision making and stitch ups. We need votes, delegate based mass meetings and regional and local social forums to decide on the direction in which we want to take the struggle. We also need to end the hypocritical ban on political parties. Yes, there is a danger that political parties will bureaucratised the movement and that the reformist ones will lead us



World Unite! international!



down the path to defeat. But, if we have democracy and transparency in the movement we can elect and recall comrades knowing what political party they are in and in what direction that party wants to take the movement.

That's why we don't just want a youth international - we want a workers international as well. We want to transform the ESF, and the WSF too, into a workers international. Such an organisation could unite the international working class, build up its strength and impact in struggle, and pave the way for the great revolutionary overthrow of global capitalism. Throughout history there have been four such internationals. The first four internationals brought political and organisational achievements but ultimately failed to lead the working class to victory. Capitalism is in chaos and crisis, the imperialists have declared permanent war. Time is of the essence. We need the Fifth International and we need it now.

REVOLUTION doesn't just want to talk about the need for a youth international in the abstract, we want to take practical steps to achieving it in the here and now. This month the ESF comes to Paris. We want to use the ESF to network with all socialist, communist, anti-capitalist and working class youth organisations and win them to our aim of a youth international. Towards this aim we invite them all to an international delegate based meeting in 2004 held at a date and venue to be mutually agreed to discuss:

- Immediate common actions, campaigns and mutual assistance
- Strategy, and a political programme (for which we will submit our programme The Road to Revolution)
- A common youth gathering in central Europe in the summer of 2004 or 2005.

We also want the ESF to become more accessible and open to young people, who are, after all, the militant vanguard of our movement. That's why we want next year's ESF organisers to put aside a day for the youth to discuss where we can take the movement and the issues that are affecting us. We also call on them to organise a dedicated youth space with a youth assembly (with discussion debates and decisions by voting) within this space. But we do not want to isolate ourselves from the mass movement, we want to decide our own policy and take that policy to the mass movement and win them to our ideas. Young people lead the movement in action and they should have the opportunity to lead it politically too.

REVOLUTION wants to take the struggle forward not backwards. Young people have been the vanguard of the movement, and will continue to be. We need to unite in action and give our movement a solid, revolutionary political direction. After 150 years of betrayals and setbacks the majority of workers in the world still believe that capitalism can be reformed and made humane. Even in the anti-capitalist movement there are those who think that progressive changes to the system will bring about socialism. REVOLUTION fundamentally believes that the ruling class will not give up their privilege and power voluntarily, we believe it will take a revolution and the taking of power by our class. We will continue to unite in struggle with all forces in the anti-capitalist movement, but we will not hide our ideas from the masses.

We need to form a youth international, have a democratic debate about its programme, policy and direction and do it quickly because we, the youth, have a world to win, and a future that belongs to us.

REVO RAP

by Simon in Sheffield

go go go go go go... go revo its a youth group we are gonna party like its a youth group we going to protest like its a youth group and you know we don't give a fuck its a revolution!

you'll find me in revo
red flag in my hand
we're what you need
if you wanna change the world
we're into demonstrating
not standing round and waiting
so come give me a hand
if you like the red flag

roll up on a demo, see the kids are protesting
be face up with the cops and threaten with arresting
but you know we don't take no shit from the boys in blue
been on demos from here to genoa, ya know what to do
and its the same old story but a new kinda war
war on terrorism dosen't blind me, it's a war on the poor
same class fight been here for all time
See them stand between us try and keep us in line
feet stamp on the streets and the chants in the skies
I see that revolutionary look in your eyes
Stand in london they be saying we're loco
but the plans to put the politic game in a choke hold
I'm feelin' focused man, my slogans on my mind
as we march by parliament we can hear their lies
but the people see us here on the demo
we wrote it down for campbell, 'your out' on his memo

chorus x 2

we're the people that your parents warned you about
you can quit complain we can't hear you above the shout
as a hundred thousand kids here on the streets
graffiti on the walls 'governments close to defeat'
and this isn't just me lyrically complaining
you think we're mad? you should be happy we made it
came out from the schools, the colleges and work
came out to make the bosses feel a world of hurt
if the daily mail hate it let em hate
watch the revo's pile up
red flags outside all the school gates
revolution starts here she says 'this is the place'

chorus x 2

Don't try to act like you ain't know where we been either
revo going to be here for a long time long time to come
can't shut us down now...

7★ REVOLUTION

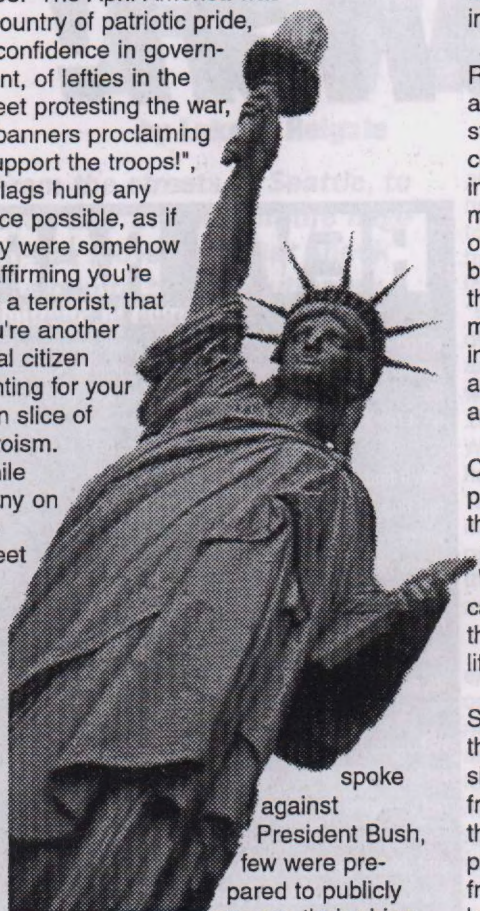
Anarchy for Sale

A Postcard from NYC

There's a vast difference in American attitudes between April 2003, and October 2003. The April America was a country of patriotic pride,

of confidence in government, of lefties in the street protesting the war, of banners proclaiming "Support the troops!", of flags hung any place possible, as if they were somehow reaffirming you're not a terrorist, that you're another loyal citizen fighting for your own slice of heroism.

While many on the street



spoke against President Bush, few were prepared to publicly express their objection to "the war on terrorism", and in particular the invasion of Iraq. The media was furiously pumping out as much pro-war, patriotic propaganda as they possibly could, and anti-war protestors felt the pinch when they held a peaceful march surrounded by military in February this year.

I came back to the States this October to find it vastly different. Most of the flags are gone, the President is a widely acknowledged idiot, and while the public is still ridiculously patriotic, they are apologetic for what their government has done to Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of the banners proclaiming "Support the troops!" have been removed and often replaced with "Bring the troops home", and most important of all, the media has turned. News broadcasts are constantly reporting the humanitarian problems of Iraq; that the people don't have water, electricity, or any form of public safety, and US 'peacekeeping' troops are frequently shot down by Iraqi militia. The implied 'code of silence' that has been applied to family and friends of US troops in wars in the past has been infiltrated by the media, and stories of what the 'real' Iraq is like have been emerging in mainstream press. Comedy shows have mocked the

lack of weapons of mass destruction, but also the sheer incompetence of President Bush, and no one seems to have any faith in the US federal government anymore.

Returning to the States, I found that while attitudes have changed significantly, there's still that all too familiar undertone of social control lurking, quite possibly more so than in April, despite the external change in climate. If there's one thing you can be sure of in America, it's that if there's a buck to be made, someone will make it. Now that the 9/11 disaster cash cow has been milked dry, corporations have been cashing in on the disillusionment of the youth and have been pushing the 'anarchy' label as far as they can.

Clothing, television, magazines & music all push for the same form of pop-anarchism that will help pave the way to Bush winning the US Presidential election in 2004.

While all these influences promote so called free-thinking among the public, all they actually do is offer another easy fix to life's political problems: apathy

Some American youth seem content with this label. It gives them the false impression that they are separating themselves from their incompetent government, that they're removing themselves from the problem, although nothing could be further from the truth. Pop-anarchy in America is bastardising the youth's political culture and undermining the efforts of the real political activists out there instead of celebrating it. Anarchism and socialism is little more than a fashion label to be worn proudly in the streets. So just sit back, declare what you are, separate yourself

from reality, and get on with life.

The solution to this abundance of clichéd Ché Guevara t-shirts, anti-establishment pop-rock, and Anarchic disorganisation is far from easy, but the time for change is now, and what better place for change to occur than in the heart of Imperialism itself, the United States of America?

First of all, Comrades must organise! It's all well and good to stake yourself against the state, but what good is that without the structure and support to make a difference? A hundred individuals acting on their own agendas will never have the effectiveness of a hundred striving towards one united goal and this is what we must build towards! We must offer an alternative to the pop-culture exploitation of politics. We need to recognise that this new brand of consumption based politics is little more than a fad created by the bourgeois out to take advantage of wavering public support for a government that's stepped way too far out of line.

We have to recognise that as such, consumers will eventually lose interest in not only the product, but also the politics the come packaged with it. But whilst there are people seeking an alternative to the two-party preferred political system of the US, then we need to be there to support them. Only through building a network of people in the US can we ever provide this necessary support and have Revolution! available as a real political alternative to the further exploitation of the US youth by its government, its corporations and itself.

by michelle from melbourne

Don't Take the Peace Out of Space

Demo Report

The US listening base at Menwith Hill is a great example of American use of land in other countries for strategic gain. The guiding of missiles, the monitoring of phone calls and the future role it will play in the American Missile Defence Program are all things that any politically aware person should question. A few hundred of those opposing the base went to demonstrate against its existence on the 11th October with these issues in mind. Opponents of the Menwith Hill spy base are all against it because on some level they oppose US control of the world this is why it is important that the questions raised about Menwith Hill should be about imperialism and American domination rather than statistics and conservation.

Although the sentiment of the demonstration cannot be questioned, the way in which it was carried out was very flawed. The demonstration consisted of speeches by a lib dem MEP (in a suit and tie, obviously a veteran protester!), a drum circle (yes, a drum circle) and a guided walk around the base. The speeches made were liberal and nationalistic based on the premise that British soil is for British people, it was a relief that the MEP was met with heckling, however the ideas discussed in other speeches were reformist ones and didn't cover the broader issues surrounding the base and the Missile Defence Program..

In order to make future Menwith Hill actions more successful local communities, workers and youth must be brought on board to give widespread opposition. These groups must also see past the basic issues of Menwith Hill being a piece of military infrastructure and oppose the political and economic systems that allow imperialism of ANY kind to take place. The anti Menwith Hill groups must become anti capitalist groups to succeed.

see y'all,
josh in halifax

The Land of Opportunity?

Well of course the USA is not the land of opportunity. We all know that. If you think it is then your probably reading the wrong paper, and if the USA isn't happy bout people coming to their country looking for an opportunity in life then why do they advertise themselves as this?

The capitalist machine which the US economy is based on, results in millions being exploited everyday. None more so than immigrants. As the USA doesn't have such a thing as minimum wage, just like in the days of the great depression, employers are taking advantage of the "illegal" immigrants, most of whom have fled from Mexico, desperate and hungry who have just enough to live off to survive.

These immigrants, because they are illegal, are not entitled to benefits and although California is pretty crowded, who can blame those who have chosen to seek their fortune in the "land of opportunity" instead of continuing to live in a circle of poverty?

The immigrants provide a cheap pool of labour for the bosses to exploit. Because many Americans, living in poverty and with no jobs themselves, see them as rivals resentment is caused. It seems there is a negative feelings towards immigrants in America. How can anyone in America - with the exception of the natives - be anti-immigration when their whole country was built on immigration? These people should not receive the blame but the employers who exploiting them.

In some cases, immigrants who seek refuge are kept in prison-like-conditions when they have done no wrong. Post 11/9, it seems Americans are scared of anyone that wasn't born there, when instead they should be appreciating the different cultures which are being brought there.

by kirk in aberdeen

American Dream

Down in the suburbs of the USA
In the heart of the legacy of
Nescafe
Buy them, sell them, make them
choke,
Make sure the coffee farmers end
up broke
Slaves with arms as thick as
twigs,
Hardship made by capitalist
pigs.

Down in the suburbs of the USA
Consumers throw their money away
Subscribers to the American
dream
Don't see things aren't what
they seem
Live you life like you're on TV
Believe all you se on channel
33.

Down in the suburbs of the USA
Gun crime rises everyday
16 children shot in the head
Gunman leaves 12 muslims dead.
How do gun lobbies get thier
way?
Donations by the NRA

Up in the white house of the USA
Dictator signs a million lives
away
Make Iraq depend on you
And your corporations to get
them through
There was no reason for that war
Except for elections in 2004.

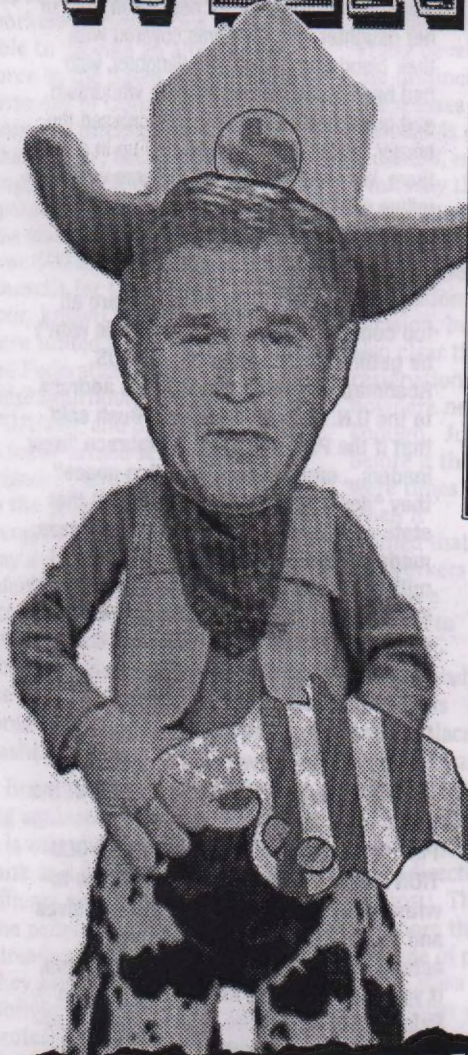
In the captured colonies of the
USA
Stars and Stripes blaze away
Lack of water, lack of aid,
Makes sure the Hotshots still
get paid.
Steal the oil and rape the land
By Uncle Sam's caring hand.

Can't you see the hypocrisy as
you
Install your so-called democracy?
Will you conquer the Middle East
Just to satisfy your imperial
feast
How many nations will have to
fall
To fund you building your shop-
ping mall?
Can't you see your United States
Is the terrorist most loving
people hates?

by michael in baslow

9 ★ REVOLUTION

WANTED!



Cowboy Bush

is coming to London on
Nov. 19-21.

He will be meeting
up with his known
a c c o m p l i c e
Bandit Blair

help us to apprehend this criminal, he is
wanted in every country on this planet for
crimes against humanity.

CAUTION
the suspect is nuclear-
armed & dangerous!!!

WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER
join the mass action
'Tea at Buckingham Palace'
3pm Victoria Station

THURSDAY 20th NOVEMBER
National Demonstration
against the Warmongers
2pm Malet St, WC1
nearest tube is goodge st or russell square

Send Bush off on a wave of resistance!

organise a stoppage, walkout
or strike... get in touch

www.worldrevolution.org.uk
07951 493 232
info@worldrevolution.org.uk

REVOLUTION
socialist youth movement

He appeared out of a broken wilderness,
reconstructed his insides
And called it truth.

Chaos beyond his nightmare ensued.

Denied the tribe their trust,
Destroyed the state of nature,
Forbade them their movements,
Their meanings, their mantras.

And when the camera pointed and demanded to
know why,

He verbally constructed a city,
Ignoring its streets that were filled with
rotting corpses,

Oblivious to the fact,
That he reigns over rubble.

by Rachel
in Brighton

End the occupation of Iraq

The Occupation of Iraq is not going according to plan for George Bush and his cronies in the White House. The first week of November has seen more US/UK troops killed than in the whole of October. In fact the number of occupying troops killed has doubled for each of the last three months.

As a result George Bush's showing in American opinion polls is plummeting. From a 90%+ approval rating immediately after 9/11 it was down to 45% at the end of October. 62% of Americans think the death toll of US soldiers is already unacceptable and 87% fear the US is becoming bogged down in Iraq.

In fact George Bush's chances of getting re-elected next year are looking increasingly shaky.

The argument that the Iraqi resistance consisted just of few Saddam loyalists or mercenaries from abroad has proved to be wrong. In fact the resistance to the occupation is spreading.

US/UK troops are facing an average of 35 attacks per day. But what will be equally worrying for the occupying forces is the increasing numbers who are taking to the streets to protest for benefits, restoration of services and jobs. Tens of thousands have marched, chanting "Death to America", knowing the promised "democracy" and "free elections" are a long way off.

George Bush's solution to the crisis is to pour in more troops and money. \$87 billion has been pledged from US taxpayers, that's \$435 for every eligible voter. And 30,000 reservists will be going out to join the 100,000 troops already there.

Whatever Bush tries in Iraq, it is doomed to failure. The Iraqi people want self-determination. They may have hated Saddam Hussein but they hate the Americans as well.

Revolution supports the Iraqi resistance, whatever form it takes because we believe in the Iraqi's right to decide their own future.

We demand that all US/UK troops leave now..

REPORT

FROM

PALESTINE...

report by Kam - in Palestine

Kam sent this report when she had been in Palestine for three weeks, in Qalqilya, a small town completely caged off from the rest of the west bank by the separation wall and declared a "closed military zone", and in Jenin. Since writing this report, Kam and other ISM activists were expelled from Jenin by the IDF, but now they have decided to return...

Week One: Qalqilya.

I spent seven days in Qalqilya, and for much of that time the town was completely closed off from the outside world, like a prison camp. There is one checkpoint that you have to pass through to get out, which is open very rarely and at unpredictable times. Beyond the wall is a 40m buffer zone, a barbed electrical fence with razorwire, built-in sensors and sniper watchtowers in case anyone tries to approach the fence.

The wall, soldiers, and razorwire separate 42,000 people from their schools, jobs, and farms. Shops and markets within the town have had to close. Farms have been bulldozed by the IDF, olive and fruit trees that have been the livelihood of families here for generations have been uprooted and left to die, and farmers cannot get to the remaining trees at harvest time.

While we were there the IDF invaded the hospital, forcing the staff to strip and lie on the ground. After threatening to shoot us, the soldiers shot at and broke up hospital equipment, and poured oil from the kitchens all over the floors. They didn't find the man they were looking for...

Weeks Two and Three: Jenin.

Jenin is like a ghost town. The city has been under a 24 hour "curfew" for all but two of the days I've been here. It's more like a complete shutdown than a curfew - no-one can go to school, university or work, the shops close, the water supplies are cut... The risks are huge for anyone who ventures outside - recently a woman carrying food back to the camp was shot by soldiers, and a young boy was shot in the throat. The soldiers have threatened to arrest us for trying to get food to families whose homes have been occupied by the IDF.

The resistance of children and young people here is amazing. They seem fearless sometimes - they dismantle the rifles from

the top of APCs, and we saw one kid jump on the side of an APC and pull out a phone, shouting "Sharon?! Sharon?!". Yesterday tanks were chasing crowds down the road, and a group of us ran into a hallway to shelter. The tank pulled up, pointed the barrel inside the hallway and fired. I thought we would all be killed, but this is just a normal part of life here...

This is not to say that children and adults are not traumatised by the way they have to live. We met one woman last week whose house was being demolished. Three months before, soldiers had surrounded the house and shot her son and her nephew in front of her daughter. The floor was covered with their blood and brains. Her daughter, who had been studying law, became withdrawn and quiet, and soon afterwards crossed the border to Haifa and blew herself up in a café there. We meet families all the time who can tell us similar stories of ongoing enforced suffering and oppression...

The situations Kam describes are all too common all over Palestine. Life won't be getting better under the new US Roadmap for Peace either. In his address to the U.N. General Assembly, Bush said that if the Palestinians can embrace "new leaders... committed to building peace" they "deserve their own state". But that state will consist of small, isolated areas, made smaller and surrounded by the \$1 million-a-mile security walls described by Kam above. The destruction of Palestinian homes and the creation of illegal Israeli settlements continues, and as the recent killings of Rachel Corrie, James Miller and the shooting of Tom Hurndall show, the IDF is cracking down on activists and journalists who try to show the rest of the world what is being done to the Palestinian people. A number of REVOLUTION members have been to Palestine to witness what is happening for themselves and to arrange talks, meetings and actions to publicise the situation at home. If you are interested in spending time in Palestine or in hearing more about the situation there now, contact Revolution on info@worldrevolution.org.uk.

• See Issue 58 of REVOLUTION for more information about the Roadmap

Revolution in Bolivia

by Natalie in Cambridge

The last few weeks in Bolivia have seen enormous and revolutionary protests, triggered by the privatisation of the country's natural oil and gas reserves and drawing in increasingly wide sections of the population to vent their dissatisfaction with neoliberalism and the decades of extreme poverty it has created.

On September 29th the Bolivian Workers' Union (COB) called for an indefinite general strike, which continued for over two weeks, over the President's plans to export gas to transnationals in the US and Mexico via Chile. By the end of this time it had spread to every major city, with the centre of the uprising being in La Paz and nearby El Alto. Here, on the 13th of October, the police and army brutally repressed tens of thousands of demonstrating workers, miners, peasants and local people for over ten hours.

During this week, the first elements of dual power were appearing - it was clear that the workers organisations were now able to provide an alternative force to the hated bourgeois government of Gonzalo Sanchez de Lonzo (nicknamed 'Goni' or 'the gringo', because he speaks English much better than Spanish). Crucial to this process was the creation in El Alto of over 500 local neighbourhood councils for the workers and the poor, known as 'juntas'. These were united across the city in the Federation of Neighbourhood Juntas (FUJUVE), and by the 18th began to form 'armed self defence brigades', to deal with repression by the government forces. It was recognised that the miners must play a crucial role in this defence: apart from being seen as a traditional vanguard of the working class in Bolivia, their job makes them skilled in the use of dynamite sticks which come in handy in such violent clashes!

But as well as simply defending against the police and army it is essential to encourage the rank and file to split from their officers and go over to the side of the people. Some in the Police already did this in March, when they joined the thousands of Bolivian public sector workers protesting over pay and conditions. The fact that the Bolivian army is made up of conscripts helps this process, and there have been reports of soldiers

refusing to shoot, and even of certain officers threatening to stop defending the government. These developments, along with the unflinching determination of the masses and the arrival of thousands more miners from Huanani, meant that on Thursday the 18th President 'Goni' announced his resignation and fled the country.

There was a great celebration of this decision, but it is also clear that his resignation is nowhere near enough. Just before it there were times when it seemed that the workers were in a position to seize control; instead, 'Goni' has been replaced by Carlos Mesa, a key member in the very government that the protests were directed against! This is no more than a change of persons, Mesa is still a member of the ruling class and the aims of the struggle as set out by the COB have not

been met. These included, as well as ending sales of gas to multinationals, putting land under the ownership of the peasants who cultivate it and respecting the rights of the Indians and the coca farmers.

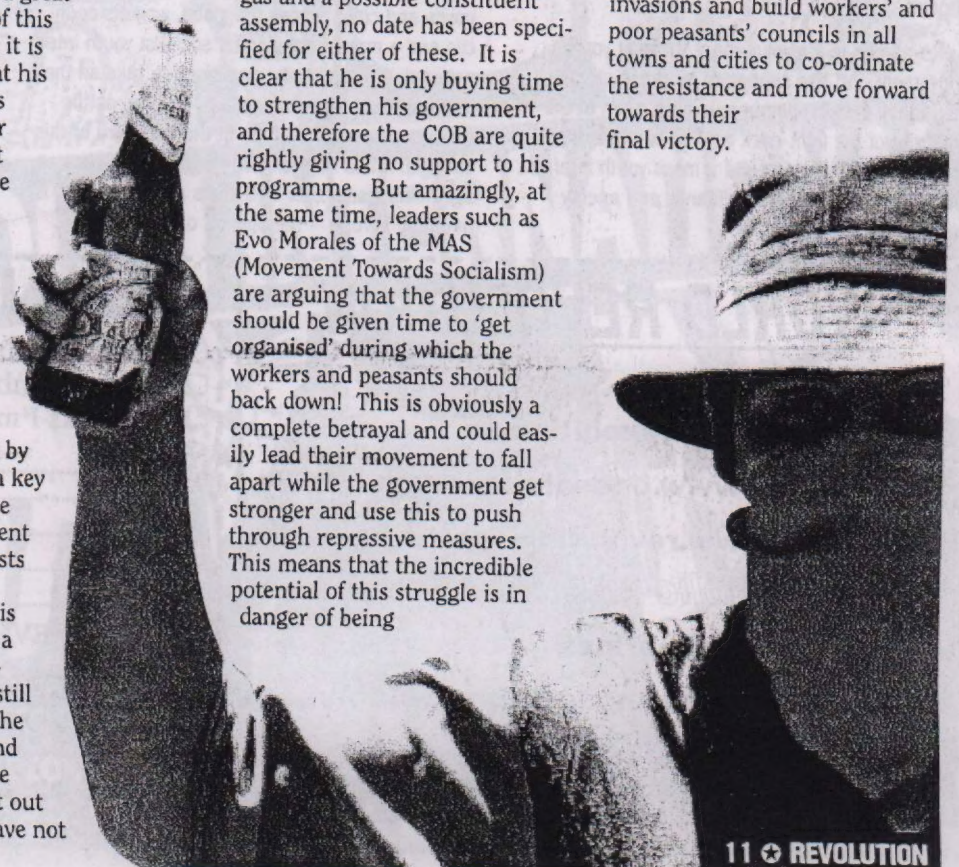
Although Mesa's government has made some vague concessions to the workers such as promises of a referendum over gas and a possible constituent assembly, no date has been specified for either of these. It is clear that he is only buying time to strengthen his government, and therefore the COB are quite rightly giving no support to his programme. But amazingly, at the same time, leaders such as Evo Morales of the MAS (Movement Towards Socialism) are arguing that the government should be given time to 'get organised' during which the workers and peasants should back down! This is obviously a complete betrayal and could easily lead their movement to fall apart while the government get stronger and use this to push through repressive measures. This means that the incredible potential of this struggle is in danger of being

wasted by the weakness of supposedly revolutionary leaders, something that has happened repeatedly in Bolivia (and other parts of South America) in recent years.

What is needed desperately is a committed and consciously Marxist leadership, which does not hesitate to take the struggle to its full conclusion and breaks with any bourgeois government. Many of the COB leaders claim to be for a revolution, but to just say that is not enough.

To overthrow the capitalist state the Bolivian workers need to unite and form a revolutionary party of their own in order to disarm the capitalists and take the power into their hands. Once they have achieved this, their revolutionary government, based on the juntas, can proceed in dissolving the capitalist government, nationalise industries, and take the land from the big landowners and redistribute it to the peasants.

In order to win their battle against the capitalist ruling class and build a revolutionary socialist government, the immediate task for the Bolivian working class is to break the truce with Mesa's government, workers must fight for workers control in the mines, offices and factories, the peasants must step up land invasions and build workers' and poor peasants' councils in all towns and cities to co-ordinate the resistance and move forward towards their final victory.



Join **REVOLUTION**

socialist youth movement



Since the late 1990s there has been a resurgence in militant fight-backs against the capitalist system. The anti-capitalist movement has brought 100,000s onto the streets from Seattle to Evian. Massive protests have wracked South America with revolutionary movements overthrowing Presidents in Argentina and now Bolivia. Strikes have spread across Europe to stop the attacks on workers' rights. The Intifada rages against the Israeli occupation and the biggest ever anti-war movement in history protested against the war on Iraq. Now, the Iraqi people are in armed struggle against the occupation, and George Bush cannot go anywhere without facing 10,000s of people in protest.

Revolution is a revolutionary socialist youth movement and has supported all these struggles and many more. Young people have been at the forefront of the fight-back against capitalism and Revolution is trying to build a mass youth international that can bring our militancy and energy together on a global scale.

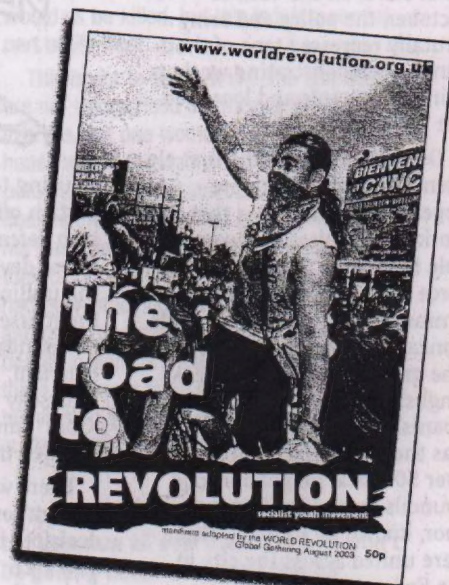
Revolution has built the Stop the War movement and mobilised school strikes, built occupations in unis, STW groups in workplaces and blockades on the streets. We've supported the posties and firefighters with fundraisers, banner drops, picket line support and building for demos (including being invited to march with an FBU contingent because of our solidarity actions). Revolution is trying to build a militant anti-fascist/anti-racist movement against the rise of the BNP, and sent members out to Palestine to support the work of the International Solidarity Movement in exposing the brutality of apartheid Israel. We've been in the anti-capitalist movement from the very beginning and have taken part in, and built for, many anti-capitalist demonstrations including J18, MayDay, Prague, Genoa and Evian. Finally, Revolution was at the heart of the European Social Forum in Florence and we will be again in Paris, holding workshops and seminars. And these are to name but a few...

Revolution believes that the only way we will ever truly win these struggles and end war and inequality is if there is a global revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist system. For this to be achieved a mass working class international has to be built, learning the lessons from previous mass revolutionary internationals, such as the one built around the ideas of the Bolsheviks after the Russian Revolution. This will involve building mass new revolutionary workers parties, social forums in towns and cities across the globe, workers councils and a mass revolutionary socialist youth international. We need to be organised to take on the ruthlessness of the ruling class, and we, as the younger generation, will be at the vanguard of this struggle. It has happened before and can happen again. Marx said over 150 years ago: "A spectre is haunting Europe — the spectre of communism".

Now that spectre is haunting the capitalist classes again, but not just in Europe: across the globe.

If you want to know more about the politics of Revolution and get involved in the struggles that we are active in then get in touch. Build Revolution groups in your schools, colleges, unis or workplaces. Join Revolution and help build a revolutionary youth movement against the capitalist system that can break our class chains. Let the ruling classes tremble once more. We have a world to win, one based on equality and freedom not profits and barbarism.

One Solution! Revolution!



manifesto adopted
by the **WORLD REVOLUTION**
Global Gathering August 2003 - 50p

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